

Claims

1. A method for scavenging radicals in a substance comprising providing said substance with urocanic acid or a functional equivalent thereof.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein urocanic acid is trans-urocanic acid.
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3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said substance is aqueous.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said substance comprises a food product or cosmetic product.
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5. Use of urocanic acid as antioxidant or radical scavenger.
6. Use according to claim 5 wherein urocanic acid is trans-urocanic acid.
7. Use according to claims 5 or 6 in aqueous solutions.
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8. Use according to claim 7 in preparing a food product or cosmetic product.
9. Use of urocanic acid for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition.
10. Use according to claim 9 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of oxidative stress.
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11. Use of an oxidation product of urocanic acid for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition.
12. Use according to claim 11 wherein said product is an photo-oxidation product
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13. Use according to claim 11 or 12 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for modulating the immune response of an animal.
14. Use according to claim 11, 12 or 13 wherein said product is an imidazole such as imidazole-4-carboxyaldehyde, imidazole-4-acetic acid or imidazole-1-carboxylic acid.
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15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising urocanic acid or functional equivalent and/or an oxidation product thereof.

16. A method for the treatment of oxidative stress of an animal comprising treating said animal with a pharmaceutical composition comprising urocanic acid or functional equivalent thereof.
- 5 17. A method to modulate an immune response of an animal comprising treating said animal with a pharmaceutical composition comprising an oxidation product of urocanic acid.
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said product is an imidazole such as imidazole-4-carboxyaldehyde, imidazole-
10 4-acetic acid or imidazole-4-carboxylic acid.
19. A method according to claim 16 further comprising a method to modulate an immune response of an animal according to claim 17 or 18.